Passion Power

Politics

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The Personal is Political, But it Ain't Easy

by Jodi Jensen

Ever since feminists coined the slogan "the personal is political" a couple of decades ago, women have been looking to their personal lives as a basis for change. By challenging the traditional public/private split, feminists introduced a whole new series of issues into the political realm. Women suddenly saw their everyday actions and their personal relationships with family, friends, and sexual partners as political decisions vital to their present oppression/exploitation and potential liberation. Revolution was possible everyday, for every woman.

Today, amidst heightened awareness of sexual assault, incest, date rape, and physical and psychological abuse, sexual politics and personal politics are familiar to most women. But how many women who practice feminist analysis in the public realm apply that analysis to their personal lives? How many amazing politically active women continue to put up with sexual harassment in their work place, deny their memories of childhood abuse, or go home to an abusive partner?

Talking about sexual politics reality of abuse means acdifficult for many women, perbetween men and women and to undo all that social conditioning about love and sex and relationships is perhaps more by us as feminists than arepublically political issues.

I know that I'm still "nice" (i.e., have time and patience for) to some men whom I think are jerks. Why? Because I avoid confrontation and have inbred caretaking characteristics? I become frustrated and angry with myself for not being more honest and defining my limits, and ultimately end up taking responsibility for the jerks jerkiness. Many women experience frustration about being "caretakers", whether it manifests as overblown mothering or feeling more care is given than

Women who remain with partners who are abusive physically, psychologically, or sexually may do so for a huge complexity of reasons. Some may deep silent rather than admit "failure" to either themselves or others. To accept the

in our own lives is still very knowledging a lack of control. Breaking silence means becomhaps because there is still so ing more honest with both ourmuch that hasn't been "revolu- selves and our culture. tionized". Our inability to easi- Breaking silence is revolutionly transform power dynamics ary, directly challenges the public/private split, and is a key to ending women's

oppression.
It remains difficult for acutely experienced as failure women to speak out/come out about feminist politics in the face of blatantly and almost universally consistent hostility and/or deafness. How often can we approach professors about their use of language in the classroom or correct an acquaintance who calls us 'girls' (when we're wimmin!) without trying to explain our point, or our intimidation? We tell ourselves it's just not worth the hassle this time.

> Women who were sexually abused as children by parents or other relatives often remain silent in part because of the controversy and disbelief it would cause within the family. These women may not feel strong enough to speak out, or may feel it's not worth the fuss. Underlying this argument is the premise that we, as women, aren't worth the fuss; social conditioning tells us that we, as women, are nearly

worthless.

For women to accept the hostility and hatred which constantly bombards us as women takes great courage and strength. To avoid insanity and despair, many women form purposeful blocks, allowing them to address only those issues they feel strong enough to cope with. For instance, survivors of childhood sexual abuse or date rape may remember their abuse, but not remember it as abuse, or make the connection between the event and the concept of abuse. Some survivors have no memories. Some women have part-

ners who have occasionally hit them, but do not consider themselves "battered". Some women have employers who are jerks, but do not think they are sexually harassed.

While countless women have had the courage to speak out and leave abusive relationships and feelings of worthlessness behind them, many others continue to struggle with psychological blocks and make compromises with their politics in their personal lives.

The personal may be political these days, but "revolution ain't neat or pretty or quick" (Pat parker). It also ain't easy.

<u>istrata</u>

by Susanne Klausen

there is a run on the Aristo- effort to force a truce. First they phanes play Lysistrata right capture the Akropolis because now. This is for a couple of rea- the war treasury, necessary to sons. If you are feeling bitter, ensure the war's progress, is furious or despairing because kept in the Parthenon. Then there is another world war in the women barricade themprogress that no one knows selves inside, refusing all interif/when/how it will end; and course with men - of the sexual if you just happened to notice nature. Lysistrata is adamant that now that Maggie is gone, that necessary to their task is the bastards frothing at the abstinence from any sexual mouth to play with their relations with husbands or "smart" bombs and "peace- lovers - a great sacrifice for keepers" (and other evidence them which they can make of state-generated insanity) are only because of their even men - then this is a play that stronger desire for peace. might help cheer you up.

that a people could be war mere WOMEN would even weary already 2,400 years ago, attempt to block men from the but the fact is that for Greeks Akropolis and they immediatewar was a regular event. In ly set out to recapture it. The fact, it's positively unnerving attempts fail as the women to know that the Greeks had prove to be smarter, strategitheir own Persian Gulf War - cally superior. In frustration proving once again that histo the men ask the women just

battle of the sexes that ensues peace?" after the women of Greece in nizes the women to withdraw you'd done it again - manhan-

I would not be surprised if all support from the men in an

It is not long before the men It is depressing to realize are insulted and angered that ry does, horribly, repeat itself. "where you women conceived Lysistrata is a play about a this concern about war and

Lysistrata replies:"When the 411 B.C. become angry at their war began, like the prudent, men for the ongoing war dutiful wives that we are, we between Athens and Sparta. tolerated you men, and en-The women, from all regions of dured your actions in silence. Greece, decide that the war has (Small wonder - you wouldn't already taken too much of a let us say boo). You were not toll on the lives of their sons precisely the answer to a and on the well-being of their matron's prayer - we knew you communities. Unable to sit too well, and found out more. back any longer, Lysistrata, a Too many times, as we sat in woman from At hens, orga- the house, we'd hear that

with your usual staggering incompetence. Then, masking our worry with a nervous laugh, we'd ask you brightly, "how was the Assembly today, dear? Anything in the minutes about Peace?" And my husband would give his stock reply. "What's that to you? Shut up!" And I did."

Lysistrata continues: "To women more peace-loving, me, Aristophanes delivers. keep us from giving advice while you fumbled the City away in the Senate...There was really no time to lose. We women met in immediate convention and passed a unanimous resolution: To work in concert for safety and peace in

Of course the men are only infuriated all the more that the women are able to hold on to the Parthenon, and their phallic pride is ruffled by their intentions of holding out sexually as well. Ever-scathing, Aristophanes manages to crudely satirize everyone and everything. Sex is treated with extreme crudeness; for example, at one point after the men have been "cut off", they run around with throbbing, aching, six-foot erections, begging their wives to come home. Many of the scenes in Lysistrata are hilarious, witty and full of bantering. It's refreshing to see women looking bright for a change, and also to see them protect one another from the men who attempt (but fail) to recapture the Parthenon.

At the time of this play, Greece was a misogynist state, a fact Aristophanes acknowl-

dled another affair of state edges. But though women are innately non-violent and all truce at any cost.

ness in this play? None. Are much as you can at them. For

denigrated by men in the play, that nonsense? Don't be silly. and at times by each other as But regardless of why men are well, women are by far the leading us down another road wiser, smarter, and have com- of human and environmental mon sense. In the end, driven destruction, it is a point that by their oversized, underused cannot go unnoticed. Obviousphalluses, the men strike a ly, this is not news, as Aristophanes proves. For the sake of Is there a class conscious- your sanity, try laughing as

In the Name of Lysistrata

Dear Mila,

As Canadian women, we are sending you an urgent appeal during this time of destructive war. As wife of the Canadian Prime Minister, we recognise your position of considerable power and influence. We are counting on you to exercise this power for the benefit of humanity.

As a woman and mother, we know that you appreciate the sanctity of human life - a value which apparently has been overlooked in this crisis. While we are aware that men are responsible for this present catastrophe, we also know that women must take active responsibility in their relationships with these men. Of course, women's nurturance and support for men at war only serves to perpetuate the notion that we can look to war as a means of conflict resolution. We know that this attitude can lead to complete global destruction. You, the wife of the Prime Minister, have a responsibility to steer your husband on a peaceful course. You must use all powers vested in your position to attain a peaceful process: deny unconditional support; refuse to attend patriotic state functions; withhold loving rewards or sexual favours; refuse to have more children; and threaten separation. We appeal to you to unite with us to stop violent aggression. Women's solidarity is the only avenue left for global peace; all others have failed.

Peace does not come without sacrifice. We are looking to you to do your part.

Yours truly,

Women are War(n) Out

by Cathy Richardson

How much responsibility should women take for the war which is presently taking thousands of lives in the middle east? It is too easy to say that this war and most wars are/were caused by men. These wars are always fought over the same old stuff-property, power, resources, control, - all disguised with nationalistic rhetoric, moralistic self-righteousness and 'my dad has a bigger gun than your dad' logic. Even Kuwaitis have publically recognized that the U.S. is not motivated by a concern for their humanrights. The world knows that the United States does not have a good record when it comes to human rights. Who are big brother Bush (and little brother Brian) trying to kid with their doublespeak of 'killing to save lives' and using the 'undemocratic power machines to preserve democracy'. And what role have women played in these gruesome war games?

... If women historically had united against war, perhaps today it would be obsolete.

This is apparently not the case. It seems that women do find reasons for supporting war and supporting those who wage war. Perhaps only when women form a united block opposition to war will there be an end to this destructive mad-

It is true that men hold virtually all the positions of power on this planet. Some believe that if women were held power positions on the global scence war would not be considered as a means of conflict resolution. Would Ms Bush and Ms Hussein extend their power and personality conflicts to the lengths of rabid warfare. Would they nurture the notion that nationalism is worth the death of human beings, culture, civilization and the environment? Would they jeopardize life on this planet for self-serving power plays laced with the jargon of video and football games? Perhaps they would. What

makes these women different than women here in Victoria? Are they innately aggressive? Have they successfully internationalized an unconditional support of the patriarchal capi-

learned to manipulate it to their advantage since it's unladylike to topple it? Maybe they have tried to advocate peaceful solutions only to be silenced, beaten, or bought off.

Perhaps they would never resort to war. If they had power what would they do differently? What would WE do differently? Unfortunately, we haven't had the formal political power to experiment with new ways to find peace. Many of us are sure that peace is a process and a commitment.

Peace is never motivated by profit, one-up-MAN-ship, exclusionary ideologies, or power-trips. Would you please all leave your egos outside the door! Empty your pockets of injured masculinity, deposit all assumptions of cultural superiority at the counter. Until women begin participating in international decisionmaking, sophisticated forms of conflict resolution and a peaceful world order will not be found. We could all be dead before this happens.

Can we learn from our history— the history we have had to rediscover on our own? The Minoan civilization was one of talist system? Have they the last to fall in Ancient Greece. It was a peaceful civigive him money and arms for rather doubt it. his war against Iran And punishment for violating capitalist boy's club oil price agree-Who said that capitalism promotes stability? You don't have to be a woman to know that MIXING MEN, CAPITALISM, AND ARMIES IS A RECIPE FOR WAR - but it

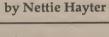
Perhaps the U.S. could have lization and it was run by arranged an International conwomen. It fell to the invading ference on the future of Israel male Roman armies. Perhaps and the Palestinians in order to the Gulf war cannot be identi- avert this war. Such internafied as a gender issue. Perhaps tional issues are connected and it has more to do with class. will have to be addressed, at Perhaps the world is fed up some point, in the name of with American interference— peace. Did Saddam Hussein everywhere. Perhaps Hussein look to the United States as a is no nastier than any of the role model? How to invade other male-dictator (dicktator) smaller countries, break intertypes propped up by the U.S. national law, and get away and the west. After all, we (the with it... Who started this type west) did support him and of behaviour? Was it women? I

I'm not sure that using remember Mr Somoza, Mr women as role models would Marcos, the Shah, Mr Chris- create a utopian planet, but tiani, Mr Polpot, Mr Noriega, maybe someone (else) should Mr Pinochet, and the rest of the suggest it— at least while we U.S. backed human-rights still have a planet. In the meanboy's club. The U.S. did indi-time, let's look to Lysistrata as cate, speaking subtley in diplo- a role model and refuse to supmatic tongues, that there port belligerent activities and would be no retaliation if Mr those who resort to them (even Hussein invaded Kuwait (in those we love). We can use what little power we have on the international scene to let our brothers know that enough is enough.

Hell NO! He Won't Go!

now in use treats human life

cheaply and must be changed.



As a mother ,I have difficulty with the war. When my son was born fifteen years ago ,I cried myself to sleep every night for three months, agonizing over a nuclear holocaust. I was numb with fear but having just given birth, I blamed it on my hormones. I realize now how immobilizing that fear was. The once a year peace march was not quite enough to assuage the drive I felt to make a safe world for my child. However, having been raised in a sheltered home where politics or world events were never discussed, I had no idea how to channel this energy.

This son is now a corporal in air cadets and has three "X's " beside his name. The X represents a bullseye in target shooting— a far cry from the gentle soft-spoken person I raised. He justifies his participation in cadets by saying he can acquire his pilot's license cheaper this way than if he or I paid for it. Where his new little brother is concerned, Arthur is adamant. The 'world order' / power

And with this new son, and many years of skill-gathering, I am stretching the parameters of patriarchy every day. This world needs to be changed. It needs to incorporate women and children and their specific needs. It must no longer be

power-over, for the world has little left to be raped and plundered. The time has come to wipe the tears from our children's faces. We must and will work for a new new order now. Bless our children and keep them safe, oh Goddess, while we, the mothers, work.



Peace Organization of Women meets Fridays at 10:30 AM Clearihue A 206

all women are welcome to attend, to discuss peace issues from a feminist perspective, and to plan actions for peace





The "Me Tarzan, you Jane!" Days are Over

by Cathy Richardson

As we approach the 21st century there is a lot of attention focussed on gender related issues such as sexual harrassment, sexual assault. and power-over. Many of these issues present themselves as the extremity of dysfunction or malfunction in the relations between the sexes. It is not surprising that we see an abundance of violence and abuse considering that even in socalled "healthy" situations men and women do not always know how to relate to each other with ease and consideration. Why is this? The reasons are numerous and complex.

Life has become considerably more complicated since the days of "Me Tarzan, You Jane!" It has become socially unacceptable and illegal to pull a woman by the hair, into a cave, in a moment of heated anticipation. Unfortunately gender relations have not evolved in keeping with the times and women do continue to get pulled into bushes, into cars, and into situations which lead to date-rape and abuse. Yet in focussing on the idea of modern mating within "healthy" parameters, how can men and women bridge the gap of misunderstanding, confusion and insecurity to actually get acquainted and develop warm and caring relation-

A first step may be to distance oneself from preconceived notions of gender stereotypes. Putting hormones on the backburner and approaching each other as humans who have something to share would be helpful. There is a lot to be gained in terms of insight and understanding from friendships which are based on mutual respect and a desire to learn

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about romance? What about passion?, excitement?, and

It seems that most rewarding and long-lasting relationships grow out of situations where there is already trust and friendship. This may be because there are fewer negative surprises which show up after the wild fires of passion become regulated by the smoke-detector of everyday

Some psychologists would say that intense desire is a product of our own neuroses a projection of unfilfilled needs which have nothing to do with the ingredients of love and stability, and little to do with the person who is the fantastic object of our desires. We must question our motivations when we arrive at this place. Surely gender relations will not imabout what lies inside the prove if we continue to objecti-

human, rather than what lies fy one another. There is a fine verges on the psychotic: inside their clothes. But what and real line between fantasy and reality. Perhaps we shouldn't live out our fantasies without the consent of our partner(s).

> How can we succeed in our relationships under the pressure of living up to someone's fantastic and unrealistic expectations of us (and vice versa). Almost all of us have become completely inarticulate when trying to approach someone if we have already given them an identity before we even know them. The loss of self-esteem can reach crisis points after perceived failures to make contact, running around out of our way to make sure paths are crossed, and seeing our 'object' with another person whom we immediately identify as a rival. Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Under the influence of lust our behaviour becomes infantile, self-destructive, obsessive, and

"Every breath you take, Every move you make, Every step you take I'll be watching you."

In these situations our 'chosen' one is not selected for compatability. Most often we are attracted to those who have similar behavioural patterns, or complimentary patterns of dysfunction. For example, if we have usually taken the role of a 'caregiver' (striving to fix broken situations and keep the peace), we are attracted to someone who will allow us to carry out this role. This often means subconsciously chosing someone who doesn't take care of themself (and may have addictive behaviour in some area). If we have a strong need to be loved we often end up choosing someone incapable of loving us back. Thus we set ourselves up for rejection and

end up with a terrible selfimage. (for more info. see the book Women Who Love Too Much by Robin Norwood). It is this kind of struggle which can become exciting and obsessive. This kind of excitement is extremely unhealthy and can be avoided by knowing a person as a human being rather than merely in the 'biblical' sense. Yet, we are tricked because those relationships which are meant to work out often lack that sense of excitement and burning passion in the beginning.

How do we get beyond this trap? Honesty is that which usually works the best. First we have to be honest with ourselves about our feelings, our needs and our motivations. Second we have to approach our relationships with this honesty. This involves taking risks. It means an end to using manipulation as a tactic putting energy into preplanned 'accidental' meetings, presenting ourselves as that which we are not in order to gain approval and being indirect and deceptive. It requires, as I stated earlier, placing hormones on the back burner and approaching someone in a pressure-free manner. If we are open, honest and ourselves, there is still the possibility of rejection but the rewards are much greater. If it works out, the connection is more likely to be authentic and mutual, and take a lot less energy. If not, well we still have our self-esteem and can feel good about knowing that we didn't reduce a human being to a 'thing', an 'object', 'stalked prey', or a 'conquest', out of a desire to attack and domesticate. This is something to feel good about.



DANCE

Come help us celebrate our 10th anniversary! (all women welcome).

IF I CAN'T DANCE I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR REVOLUTION

Friday, February 22 9:00 pm - Upper Sub Waged \$6, Unwaged & Students \$5

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA[®] WOMEN'S CENTRE



Karen Ballinger Keitha Stockand **Nettie Hayter** Renee Prasad Tanya Cowie Jodi Jensen **CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE** Anonymous Kimberley Cormack Megan Farquhar

SPECIAL THANKS TO MC Bobbi Steele (macintosh marvel) Nifty Niki Lederer Awesome Andrew Mori Donna Denman at Health Incroyable Ida Eriksen MOM (s) Everywoman's Bookstore Robert (not Rojer) Burgess everyone else i forgot... This issue is dedicated to Sappho, Aphrodite, Venus and Cupid (with love and thanks...)

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P.O. Box 3035, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3. Advertising and other information can be given or obtained at the UVic Women's Centre or by calling 721-8353 or by faxing information to 721-8728. Subscriptions to the Emily are available on a yearly basis for \$10.00.



by Heather Todd

Valentine's Day, the occadinners. Sadly,

six women in Victoria will sufship during her lifetime. An dren per month are placed on a Canadian women were killed no surprise that women are three times safer out on the

the abuse they have experienced. Society encourages women to blame themselves, and to accept the responsibility for their partner's violence. More importantly, women are taught to adapt to situations rather than change them. They spend many months and years examining their behaviour in hopes that things will get better and the abuse will stop. They desperately want their relationships to

Society provides many excuses under the guise of theories to explain why men abuse women. We explain away the violence, saying that the men were drunk, under stress or in financial despair.

They were provoked. They were victims of abuse as children. The list goes on and on. These theories are not explanations, but rather a societal belief in the right for men to batter women. It is this belief then, that causes some men to relieve their tension by acting violently toward their partners.

Finally, women who are in an abusive relationship rarely see alternatives. They must often choose between a life of

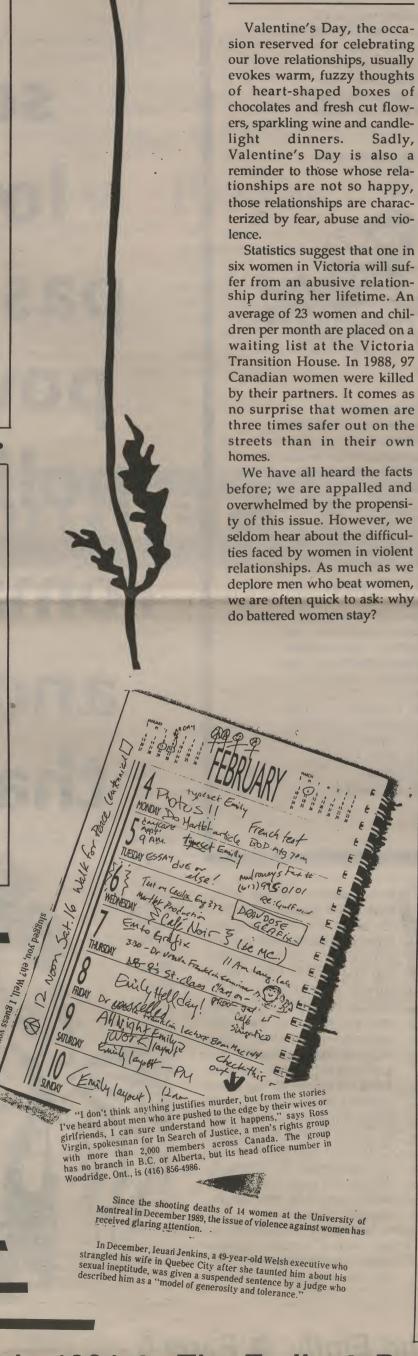
Many women feel guilty for poverty or remaining in a violent home. Many opt for the latter. Regardless of economic background, a woman still only makes 60 percent of the average wage paid to a man. Female-headed households are much more likely to live below the poverty line.

> Leaving a batterer, especially with children, is exceptionally difficult. The battered woman is faced not only with little financial support, poor job prospects and a lack of child-care facilities, but she must also face her fear of living independently accompanied only by her self doubts and low self esteem. Usually over a process of years, a battered woman may leave and return to the relationship more than once, until she has set up a new life and is ready to leave permanently. The economic and social realities are harsh. A woman forced to flee her home may have escaped the violence; but she must subsist in a society, which until recently, did not recognize her pleas for help and still yields insufficient assistance. For women as these, Valentine's Day may indeed seem like such bitter irony.

Emily Editorialises

Some believe the acid test for a "true feminist" is the category called LOVE (or romance or sex or passion or whatever you call it).

In this age of "politically correct" everything, there are a few hard questions you have to answer which will help you gauge just how pure a feminist you might be. First, if you are a man who calls himself a feminist, are you really just looking for a woman? Or a woman's approval? Or just to get laid? If you are a woman who calls herself a feminist, do you eye (in this case) a man and set out ways to "accidently" bump into him? Do you covertly read Cosmopolitan and Glamour at Thrifty's, mentally filling out quizzes on "How Attractive Are You?" When you're blue do you pay big bucks to watch "Green Card" or "Pretty Woman" and find yourself wishing you were Julia Roberts, the irresistible, vulnerable prostitute with legs ten feet long? If you are the sort of person who is honest with herself, you could probably become paralyzed with depression at the thought of how deep the "old roles, old rules" exist in your psyche. It can lead you to wonder how can we have a feminist "revolution" if we've all got the twisted lessons of our society so deeply ingrained? Despite our desire to create new rules and new roles for ourselves, we get frustrated at the constant resistance we face both in society and in ourselves. "Why does change come so slowly and with such difficulty?" someone once asked. "Does it have to be this way?" This kind of fundamental change is hard - there are no shortcuts, it's hard work. But don't let yourself slip into apathetic unhappiness over it.. Sure you still might wish for roses on Valentine's Day, or you might have secret fantasies of getting married in a \$2,000 white wedding dress forever afterwards destined to be stored in acid-free paper. Subscribing to a new philosophy/ideology is not enough to change the quality and style of your fantasies, politics can't always override the heart. Humanity is capable of change, and as we discussed here once before, praxis is the relationship between theory and practice. So although it is important to strive for a new, feminist vision of what the world, of what love/ sex/ passion could be, don't punish yourself for



Sexual Chivalry

Etiquette for the Woman Lover

Laying your jacket down in a puddle or walking nearest the traffic on the sidewalk are somewhat outdated actions in terms of their relevance to modern gender relations. While most people understand the subtle difference between not letting a door slam shut in someone's face and corny attempts to let the 'fairer' sex leave the premises first, we thought modern Romeos and Juliets might appreciate a list of what we think are a few updated and appropriate acts of chivalry.

A Few Acts of Chivalry for the Modern Lover (or, the Emily

-massage her back and fill the hot water bottle when she has menstrual cramps -carry a condom and bring up the subject of birth control -be open about your sexual health before you sleep togeth-

-if you're not sure how to use a condom, LEARN! -YOU be the one to get up first to make the tea of coffee in the morning

- make the bed in the morning -when she makes you dinner do not make cutesy remarks about what a good housewife she will make

-tell her you love her before she tells you -tell her she's beautiful when

you think she is -don't compare her to previous (or future!) lovers

-respect her body and her physical space—ALWAYS. -after making love don't just pass out (and start to snore!) -let her know if you would like her to initiate sex more often -LET her initiate sex more

-challenge roles - even in bed -TALK about your feelings, even if it seems difficult -don't always take the best



-take turns being on top -sleep in the wet spot (at least half the time...) -bring candles and/or incense -get over your fear of menstru-

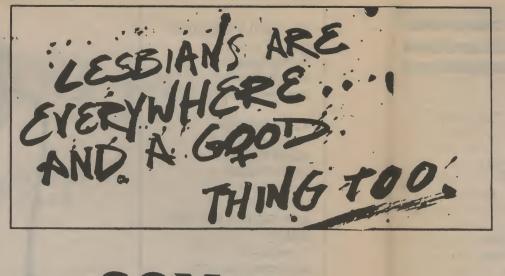
-respect PMS...and don't make fun of it

-breakfast in bed! (once in a while would be nice) -get up in the middle of the night to let that darn cat/dog

-clean the bathroom -put the toilet seat down after use (if you're a man, that is...) -love letters are still cool, even in this modern era...fax'em if necessary!

- reading books in the bathtub together (candles, music etc) -complaint-free footrubs -be RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE

need we say more?



sex love passion power politics romance and all that...



The Body Politic

by Cathy Richardson

ing to Rousseau man did not fashion industry.

ties of relationships. Men and curves, were unrestricted by women came together only to brassieres, girdles and stockmate and then went off and ings, and took in air freely like did their own thing. Neither mountains, valleys and men nor women were domesti- canyons. The skin's foundation cated so there were no power- was bronzed by sunlight and struggles over dirty dishes or wind. Cheeks and lips were equality rights. Even kids were coloured pinkish from the eleas free as birds and on their ments. Fingernails were almost In the state of nature, it was own from the minute they the colour of skin. Bodies were assumed (at least by Rousseau) could walk. Men were free, cleaned in cool streams and that man was essentially good. there were no chains, and they freshly scented from lying in Jean-Jacques did not speak of were good. But what were the grass amongst herbs and women, but we know they women like in the state of wildflowers. Life was uncom-(we) were there, otherwise we nature? Women too were free - plicated. wouldn't be here now. Accord- free from the chains of the Such is the body politic in

bother about marriage or Women's bodies were in today, natural beauty was crustruggling over the complexitune with the great earthly elty-free. Men were good.

body Mother Nature. Body hair grew uninhibited like forests free of clearcuts and razor scrapes. Natural liquids flowed, moon-directed, like the

the state of nature. Unlike

HOW TO SIMULTANEOUSLY JAZZ UP in a cobblestone alley in England. on a picnic table in the middle of Mt. Doug Park. A RELATIONSHIP AND SHOCK THE PUBLIC. The following uncensored information was taken from a lavatory wall somewhere on the UVic campus. This may provide some insights in to the condition of Modern Romance in it's raw and primitive form of expression. Q. Where is the weirdest place you've ever made love??? Under the stairwell of the Argelite Exhibition of the Museum A. Under the stall W.A. A. in a treehouse by Vic West School A. On the room A. in the Imperial Gardens in Japan (we got kicked out as a security threat). On the roof of Safeway. Nowkes Goo Prokes! Quo! A. at Clover Pt. on a hood of a car in the pouring rain.

by Megan Farquhar and Alisa Gordaneer

even though it does look as though this is our token dyke- ence doesn't mean that they are every woman's experitype article. Many "straight" women think that lesbianism ence. Just because we've written this, don't assume we're is less-complicated—sort of an ideal that they'd like to try lesbian feminists. Just because we've written this, don't out, but.... Of course, there are pros and cons to both sides assume we're not. Disclaimer, disclaimer, disclaimer. of the sexual-orientation fence. Neither is better or worse... but here's a few of the highlights of living in a lesbianfeminist relationship.

Just because all these advantages exist in lesbian-feminist relationships, doesn't mean they don't exist in heterosexual and bisexual relationships. Just because all these advantages are listed doesn't mean they are always the Lesbian love. No, it hasn't been forgotten in this issue, case. Just because these advantages have been our experi-

-no worries about contraception,

-risk of cervical cancer is

-chance to come to terms with your own power, role, and control issues

-more choices in your personal relationships because you aren't confined to prescribed gender relations

-able to experiment in partnership roles

-transforming power issues into healthier ways of relating with others

-because women have been subject to the same societal pressures, oppressions, and abuse, it is easy to relate with another woman on this

more common-ground than battle-ground

more possibility for consen-

-less fear of rape and physi-

-less pressure to conform to society's "ideal" images of

-validation of your own experience as a woman

-women don't leave the toilet seat up in the middle of the night

-can share clothes with each

AND— all these advantages are open to personal interpretation.



new underwear

by alisa gordaneer

so i go into this lingerie department, and i go into this flowershop, and i go into this chocolate shop (mmmm) and they're all geared up for romance. for valentine's day. for profits and such kind of gooey marshmallow heart, WHY ALL THE FLUFF? hearts and flowers and sugary sweet cards with romance? why don't we get sick everytime we're fed these calorific ideals of looks like a valentine, ya know, all that fake gilt and painted-on ribbonstuff. like as though it's trying to look like a valentine, like as if you're going to fall in love with a shopping mall... ok, so just fall in love with it long enough to buy something. yah. first stop, chocolates. they do say that chocolate is supposed to produce the same feeling as being in love. chemical reactions, or something. they say that there's 'chemistry'. yah. so there's the male gaze? an ex- of mine once said, there doesn't seem to be sure you don't get too itchy. ..! much point, because once you get to the part where the lingerie

consumer stuff, all these capitalist-dream fashions and things, and it all looks like a victorian valentine (because, afterall, that's when greeting cards really became popular), and it all looks like like other romantic stuff. and i ask myself, as i munch on some this nostalgic romantic ideal that's just not the way life is now. but capitalism still plays on the old-fashioned ideals, just to sell because, ya know, all that frilly lace and cake decoration stuff (a soft sell, perhaps) and implied in these old ideals are not only couldn't be inherently romantic, could it? why do we associate the chivalric thing of romantic love, but also the trappings that go with it. like monogamy, and marriage, and husbands with money and power, and the status quo necessity of having a famlove and other gooey mushy stuff? so let's go on a shopping ily and living happily ever after. it recalls those not-too-distant trip. trip out, out there in that eaton's centre. even the place days past when women were considered men's property, to be gained and had and held till death do dey part . and not only all that, but it's all about men and women. yah. lesbians don't seem to exist in the sweetheart world of st.valentine's day. perhaps the megacorporations that create so much of these consumer goods don't believe that women can love women, and do so incredibly well. perhaps they think that lesbians only existed in chemical reaction of calories anyway, and if a loved one gives ly the modern woman has given up all that, huh? so now, in our you chocolates, and you have this artifical feeling of love, all credelightful modern era when ads tell us we've come a long way ated by chocolate and reacting with your hormones... well, baby and there's even women who believe it, why are we still what's the point? you're already in love, and therefore, the chocolates shouldn't make a difference, right? so buy some dark happiness and the prince charming that will give us chocolates and the prince charming that will give us chocolates and the prince charming that will take care of us forevermore? semi-sweet an d fall in love again with your own body chem- and flowers and lingerie and will take care of us forevermore? istry. yah. walk on to the flower shop. there, in a bouquet of so leave the eaton's centre, get away from all that mushy sweettwelve long stem roses, is the symbol of absolute love. ultimate ness, and look around on the rainsoaked street for something commitment. if your lover gives you these, you KNOW it's real. new. we need new ideals of romance like we need new lovers, yah. ever think about the fact that flowers are the sexual organs new intrigue, new underwear. if women are ever going to have of plants? think abou! a dozen boxed, longstem... well, anyway, them flowershops are sure a treasure trove of frills, too. love, romance, sensuality, pleasure, we need to create new idecute hearts and stuff to put with your flowers. more lace. more als for ourselves. feasting on the sugar-coated sweetness of outbows and ruffly stuff. what does the froth have to do with real dated romance is not only bad for our complexions, but for out relationships between real people?! does anyone YOU know very existences. yah. so ya put on the underwear YOU like, take have sexual organs that look like roses? (poets, don't answer this a walk on the beach in the wind and the rain and breathe fresh one...). yah. so buy some roses for yourself, and leave the flowershop. check out the lingerie department, yah. ya know, here's after all. fall in love again with the things that make YOU feel where the cake decoration really gets good. and hey, YOU get to be the cake! yes, those lacy bras and garters and stockings and thing ya never thought would feel great, like watching the full stuff really get interesting resting around this time of year. and moon fly through clouds in a storm, or taking a long hot scented yes, they must correspond to someone's idea of 'sexy'. but just bath with candles and a trashy novel, or... well, the fun is cuz how sexy can you be, when you' re scratching every few seconds? proof that these garments are NOT created for women's pleasure: they're itchy as hell! so why wear them at all? for the pleasure: they're itchy as hell! so why wear them at all? for the lacy lingerie makes you feel good, hey, that's ok, too... just be

can be seen, it probably won't stay on much longer, anyway, right? and if you eat too many of those aphrodisiac chocolates,

you're not going to want to be seen in such brief briefs, anyway,

right? so much for stereotypical romance. so what i see is all this



6-14 First step of the cobra exercise to relieve menstrual cramps

Political Love

I needed you.
Playing my role of
helping,
listening,
healing your pain.
And you needed me,
my caring,
my listening;
maybe I gave you stability.

Then your independence grew.
Crisis.
My confidence came from
helping you.
You didn't need help.
You didn't want help.
You were getting healithier,
but I was getting sicker.
We yell apart.

I couldn't let go
of the dream I'd had
of our relationship once we'd cured all the problems
and loved each other
without hurting
-which could never have happened.
I couldn't let go.
I searched for someone, anyone,
to fill my need
of being needed.

I'm stronger now.

Next time I'me in love,
I won't be in despair.

Did you learn,
or are you on the same
road to pain?

Anonymous

I get into bed. you light the candle you're warm you stare at me waiting

we go through the motions we discussed them before love, lust

you know
i don't want
to be held too tight
grabbed
squeezed
reminded
those times before
i gave
they took

repressing.
not knowing to WANT
only to please.

and now we try
you try understanding
but i know what you really want

I can't give it anymore.

t.c.



6-16 Third step of the cobra exercise

Me is blossoming
blossoming
blooming
exploding
Into a thousand little pieces
and me is swirling in a
spiral
spinning, floating, like the universe
the planets and the pieces will
swirl till they reach point X in infinity
then they will come
collapsing
colliding
exploding
back together

Then of course there is the other theory the planets will just keep dissipating into space into infinity no beginning no end Me must keep the pieces together

R



Love Triangle

Dancing in crisis

Before blind eyes

Promises

Swooping

Grab hold

of threads that

Lifted off the ground.

Disintegrate As they are

Amei Parkes

Broken

Six

i can't fall in love with you this week, or any other. i'm keeping my back to the wall until i hear women's voices ringing out newscasts in a language i know. until i can walk at night or in daylight free as (the moon on water) until the pain of every place on my body ever touched by man dissolves into pleasure, or tears of relief. until then i'm keeping my back to the wall. i'm facing your damned firing squad, outfitted dressed to kill.

(i'm keeping safe these days. back to the wall for balance if nothing else my face painted legs shaved and stockinged under lace skirts.... as if i could run in these damn stupid shoes)

i can't fall in love with you this week. or next. not until i can stare down your enemy guns not afraid.

alisa gordaneer



The Other Side

I sense your presence when I am still at home, Blocks away.

Putting on earrings and grabbing my purple scarf on the run,

I'm not surprised when

I see you standing on a street corner waiting for the light to turn green

or asking someone what time the next show begins. Adrenaline shoots like heroine

when my car turns the corner and

you are out of sight.

I just managed my secret dress-rehersal.

I'm walking to the venue and,

as expected,

I see you turn onto the street

like I invited you,

and we walk down opposite sides.

Your rhythm sways you forward

unaware of our conversation still in progress.

I lift my heavy arm and tingle my fingers

and mumble a formal hello

that you cannot possibly hear way over there.

You slow down your stride,

Trying to remember me from somewhere,

like the hugs in the ravine,

or the late morning breakfasts in your cabin near the farm.

You smile and say hello

But it's too late

You have aready said hello

and good-bye

over and over

so many times

that I must put my hands over my ears Because I am beginning to believe you.

Amei Parkes

EVENING PLAY, ACT 1

I wait in bed the hunger so strong my mouth waters with anticipation while you watch tv

"come to bed" "soon," you say, "after this

eventually I fall asleep and dream of being in an elewhile it plummets towards the ground trying to remember if it's better to jump up and down or to just panic

Karen Ballinger



6-19 First step of the bow exercise to relieve menstrual cramps



6-20 Second step of the bow exercise



IT'S BETTER TO LOVE **FRIENDS**

Ah, Aphrodite laughs, full throated and you I can almost taste with sweet longings

it's better to love friends than strangers

You I loved without ever touching your skin

your words crept inside with a gentleness I learned a new way of loving

Karen Ballinger



6-18 Lower back massage to relieve menstrual cramps



Everything You (N)ever Wanted to Know...

by Renée Prasad

This article is a scratch on the surface of a very big and very embarrassing issue (people don't like to talk about it). If you were never told about sexually transmitted disease (STD) when you got the facts of life, then you're not alone. It is time to in form yourself.

Estimates of the number of people getting infected with sexually transmitted disease(s) range from 10 million in North America per year (1987) to one person every six seconds worldwide(1983).

The most likely group of people to get STD are those between the ages of 15 and 24. It affects heterosexuals, homosexuals, bisexuals, etc. However, lesbians do have a lower rate of infection for most STD (but that doesn't mean they don't get some types e.g. her-

Always use barrier form contraception

STD are not the plague of the immoral or sexually mutated. They are caused, mainly, by bacteria and sometimes by viruses or small insects. The best way to prevent the spread of STD (that means protecting yourself and others) is through

Talk to your sexual partners about sexually transmitted diseases, find out about their sexual history (because you don't get STD from sitting on a warm bus seat).

Many people carry STD causing bacteria unaware— it usually takes a few days or weeks before symptoms begin to appear. Some diseases are asymptomatic (they cause mild unnoticeable or else no symptoms at all).

ALWAYS-use barrier forms of contraception, i.e. condoms AND diaphragms STD are primarily transmitted through sexual intercourse-vaginal and/or anal

-Be aware of the appearance- (on yourself or partners-) of unusual sores and bumps with itching or redness, any vaginal or penile discharge, painful urination bowel movements, pain during intercourse or in the lower abdominal regions. They may be signs of infection (STD or otherwise, go see your doctor)

-Get your doctor to test you for STD, some women are checked for STD when they get their PAP smear, however the PAP alone is not a test for STD (you need a separate procedure) so you may not be getting tested.

-it is also highly recommended that the genitals be washed before and after intercourse, as well urination after intercourse can help to remove STD causing organisms

Anyone can get STDs

There are about 20 identified types of STD (identified: means there are probably more out there), some of which are:

Nongonococcal urethritis chlamydia gonorrhea genital herpes AIDS genital warts hepatitis B trichonmasis crabs-pediculosis pubis, etc.

What follows is a brief description of some of the more common sexually transmitted diseases, but please don't let this be our sole or last source of information. Chances are you or some one you know will become or already is infected with STD, be informed, be protected.

Be informed Be protected

Gonorrhea

-caused by the gonococcus bac-

-infection can occur on five different places: the cervix (women), urethra (men), the anus, throat and eyes,

-can get it through vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, and oral sex with an infected

-symptoms occur within 2 days to 3 weeks of contact, for cervical the symptoms are tender cervix, with redness a nd thick discharge, frequent and painful urination, for urethral-penile discharge(thin/clear or thick with yellow or green colourin g), painful and burning urination, for anal- rectal burn or itching, pharyngeal- sore throat, sometimes inflammation, eye-swelling,

redness and pus discharge, however, most women do not have any symptoms of cervical gonorrhea that are noticea ble, this means you probably won't know you have it until complications set in (e.g. sterility or

-the treatment for gonorrhea is through medication



Chlamydia -affects both men and women

(3-4 million cases reported every year in US)

-mostly in the 20-24 age group -responsible for 50% of PID

-transmitted by Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium -transmitted via vaginal/ anal

intercourse -mainly asymptomatic: 80% of women do not observe any

major symptoms until complications arise, e.g. PID, infertili--symptoms that may occur:

vaginal discharge, painful intercourse, frequent/painful urination irregular bleeding (between cycles or after inter-

charge, burning during urina-

-cervical shields are particularily effective in preventing transfer of C.trachomalis

-treatment is drugs

-often found with gonorrhea, (20-50% of patients with gonorrhea also have chlamydia)

caused by the Herpes simplex virus Types 1 and 2

-Type 1 causes-cold sores, blisters on mouth/face/lips

-Type 2 causes-sores in genital

-HSV is a contact virus-transmitted by having mucous membranes (that's the genitals, mouth, eyes and open sores) of non-infected person come into contact with the sore (that means kissing/intercourse when someone has a sore/blis-

-so far it appears that once one is infected with HSV, the virus remains in the body indefinately (that means so far there is no

effective way to get rid of it) -there is usually an initial outbreak of sores, appearing 2 days to 3 weeks after contact symptoms include rash, itching, burning in genital area, sores appear first appear as small red measle like lesions that develop into grayish moist blisters with red edges, sores appear on the labia majora and minora, clitoris, vaginal opening, perineur buttocks, thighs and anus, blisters are often painful

Talk to your sexual partners

-on males sores appear on penis, scrotum, perineum, buttocks, anus and thighs -blisters eventually break and scab over disappearing by themselves after a few days -other symptoms may include swollen lymph nodes in groin area, low fever and fatigue most people experience 5-8 recurrences per year (after the initial attack the virus enters a latent stage for periods of time), recurring attacks are usually less painful, more localized

-sores in specific spots, and of a shorter duration

-maintaing good health, especially a low stress lifestyle- has been shown to curb recurrences -there are various drugs -in men: watery penile dis- to control recurrences -is very common 20-25% of people by age 25 have genital herpes research is ongoing, for more information and for support services maybe try: REACH (Research, Education, and Assitance for Canadians with Herpes), P.O. Box 70, Station G, Toronto, M4M 3E8



About

Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

-anyone can get AIDS (anyone

can get STD) -caused by the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus,

damages the body's immune system, making it less capable of fighting disease.

-One may have the virus with- -vaginal/anal sex most risky, out developing AIDS, but one can still transmit to others

-three ways to get AIDS: sex with an infected person, sharing needles, or from infected mother to child (vaginal secretions also pose a slight risk)

oral sex is less risky

-latex condom is still the best method of protection

-symptoms may include white spots on the tongue or mouth, swollen neck and armpit glands, severe weight loss,

-for more information Federal Centre for AIDS, 301 Elgin St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0L3

fatigue, diarrhea, fever and night sweats, chronic cough -new medications are currently being tested, so far no drug has been found to combat HIV -testing can be done at a doctor's office or at the local Health Unit or at the AIDS testing clinic 1947 Cook St.

Vaginitis:

inflammation of the vagina -caused by the upset of the physiological balance of the vagina, by a variety of factors, e.g. stress, medication, poor die t, etc.

-there are three types of vaginitis, Nonspecific vaginitis, Trichomoniasis, and Candida (Candida or yeast infection can occur without the woman ever having been sexually active, therefore many people don't consider it an STD)

Candida -caused by the Candida albi-

cans fungus -normally lives in the vagina, overgrowth leads to problems

-males may become infected through vaginal intercourse, infection usually in the urethra -symptoms include itching (usually right after a period), discharge which may have a yeasty smell, pain during intercourse or urination, swelling and redness of the

-men may get itching, burning during urination, and redness on penis head -medication is used for treatment -wiping the vagina from front to back prevents the transport of bacteria

from anus to vagina Trichomoniasis

is caused by a small parasite Trichomonas vaginalis

-mainly transmitted through sexual intercourse, but T. vaginalis can also survive on moist surfaces e.g. washclothes, sponges, and can be transmitted this way

-men usually carry the parasite without symptoms

-symptoms include ITCHING after periods, bad smelling discharge, burning during urination, pain during intercourse, swollen glands in genital region, lower abdominal pain (possibilty of a second infection e.g. gonorrhea or else PID) -medication for treatment

Nonspecific Vaginitis(NSV) -caused by bacteria Haemophilus vaginalis

-symptoms include itching, disagreable "fishy" odour of vagina, burning sensation and grevish discharge from vagina, redness and spotting of vagina -men don't develop symptoms, but are carriers (they carry the bacteria and infect/re-infect partners) -treatment is drugs



-refers to infection in any of the organs in a woman's pelvic

-leading cause of sterility, awareness among health care professionals and general pub-

-transmission of pathogens mainly through intercourse, male carrier

-pathogens may slip through the cervix and infect the uterus and fallopian tubes

> -once you have PID you are more likely to get it again, with each occurance scar tissue on reproductive organs increases, chances of sterility

-symptoms are mainly PAIN, which is hieghtened during intercourse or excessive motion, pain is often severe and can make movement difficult, also increase of period cramps, excessive and irregular bleeding, fever, chills, loss of appetite, discharge

-drugs are the main form of treatment, however research on PID is changing the level of knowledge on the disease itself and ways of treatment





Discharge from an overgrowth of yeast and from

Some good books that deal with STD in an honest, easy to understand way are available. Look for books that are as current as possible, since knowledge about STD is continually expanding with research (and let's hope that there IS a lot of research going on).

> STD: A Commonsense Guide by M. Corsaro and C. Korzeniowsky

> > ABC's of STD: A Guide to Sexually Transmitted Diseases by A.S. Meltzer

The Medical Self-Care Book of Women's Health by B. Hasslbring, S. Greenwood, M. Castleman

> Health Services on campus is a source of information (whether you are writing an article or not!) and help on STD, also see Counselling Services if you need help or support. If you have any concerns do not hesitate to talk about STD with a health care person -who is open and willing to communicate.

(Please note: author is aware of the heterosexist bias, but unfortunately there is very little information available that is not heterosexist in content)

